

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AGRE-00 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 AF-08 ARA-06

EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 COME-00 ISO-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OIC-02 /117 W
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R 141110Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0549

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 16796

FODAG

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, EAID, FAO, UN

SUBJECT: VIETNAM: FAO AND WFP

REF: (A) STATE 251412, (B) STATE 100290, (C) ROME 15786

1. DEPUTY U.S. REPRESENTATIVE DISCUSSED VIETNAM ISSUES WITH WFP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR THOMAS ROBINSON PER PARA 3 REFTTEL A AND PARAS 3 AND 4 REFTTEL B.
 2. ROBINSON REPLIED HE COMPLETELY UNDERSTOOD AMERICAN POSITION. HE WISHED TO MAKE A FEW FACTUAL POINTS. WFP DID NOT SIGN LETTERS OF READINESS WITH SRV. WFP SIGNED PROJECT AGREEMENTS REFERRED TO IN REFTTEL C AND CHARGE OF NORTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN ROME, NOW SRV, SIGNED FOR SRV. ON OCTOBER 5, WFP RECEIVED LETTERS OF READINESS FROM SRV AND ON OCTOBER 11 WFP ACCEPTED LETTERS AND SHIPMENT PAPERS BEING PROCESSED. ROBINSON POINTED OUT NO U.S. FOOD INCLUDED IN WFP VIETNAM PROJECTS.
 3. ROBINSON WENT ON TO SAY HE HAD DISCUSSED VIETNAM PROJECTS WITH FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL SAOUMA WHO FULLY SUPPORTED THEM ON
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FOLLOWING GROUNDS. FIRST, LEGAL QUESTION OF SRV'S RIGHT TO

BE SUCCESSOR FAO MEMBER TO SOUTH VIETNAM NOT CLEAR. SECOND, IF ISSUE RAISED AT NEXT FAO CONFERENCE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN SRV'S MEMBERSHIP WILL BE OVERWHELMINGLY APPROVED. THIRD, VIETNAM NEEDS AID NOW MORE THAN EVER. AND, FOURTH, FAO AND WFP WOULD BE SEVERELY CRITICIZED IF AID WERE NOT GIVEN TO VIETNAM DUE TO SHORT TERM LEGAL AMBIGUITY. ROBINSON POINTED OUT SIMILAR SITUATION ROSE IN ANGOLA WHEN WFP COULD ASSIST ANGOLA WHEN RESISTANT MOVEMENTS THERE BUT COULD NOT ASSIST ANGOLA DURING PERIOD AFTER A SINGLE GROUP HAD COME OUT ON TOP AND BEFORE FAO MEMBERSHIP APPROVED, DESPITE FACT THIS WAS PERIOD WHEN AID MOST NEEDED.

4. ROBINSON VOLUNTEERED THAT IN FEBRUARY FAO HAD REQUESTED SOUTH VIETNAM TO PAY ITS CONTRIBUTION IN FEBRUARY 1976 WHICH IS MINIMUM 0.02 PERCENT, BUT NO REPLY HAS BEEN RECEIVED TO DATE. IF, HE SAID, SCALE OF CONTRIBUTION IS CALCULATED FOR UNITED VIETNAM, THEN SCALE INCREASES TO 0.05 PERCENT.

5. ROBINSON IN CLOSING DID POINT OUT THAT HE WOULD GO VERY SLOWLY IF REQUEST RECEIVED BY WFP FROM SRV FOR PROJECT IN NORTH. FOUR PROJECTS NOW IN PROCESS IN VIETNAM ARE PROBABLY ENOUGH FOR TIME BEING FOR VIETNAM OUT OF WFP.

6. SINCE FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAS BEEN OUT OF TOWN AND IS ONLY IN ROME FOR DAY OR TWO BEFORE PROCEEDING TO NEW YORK, WE HAVE GIVEN HIM SHORT SUMMARY OF U.S. VIEWS AS SET FORTH REFTEL A. VOLPE

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